

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application for examination. Claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Favorable consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 102(b)

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,947,649 to Arai et al entitled "Reusable Type End Mill" (Arai '649). The Examiner simply states Arai '649 "discloses all of the subject matter set forth in the claims." Independent Claim 1 recites "the angular spacing of the cutting inserts within at least one of the rows varies within the row." Independent Claim 11 recites "the angular spacing of the cutting inserts within the first row varies within the first row, and the angular spacing of the cutting inserts within the second row varies within the second row and varies from the angular spacing of the cutting inserts within the first row." Applicant contends that varying angular spacing within a row as recited above is not taught or suggested by Arai '649. The specification of the present application at [0020] recites "[r]ows refer to pockets 16 which are generally at the same vertical level when tool 10 is vertically oriented as seen in Fig. 1." Applicant contends that nowhere in Arai '649 is there a teaching or suggestion to vary the angular spacing of the cutting inserts within a row. Therefore, all the limitations of independent Claims 1 or 11 are not taught by the reference. Accordingly, it is submitted independent Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over Arai '649.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-20 are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in connection with the present application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite the handling of such matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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